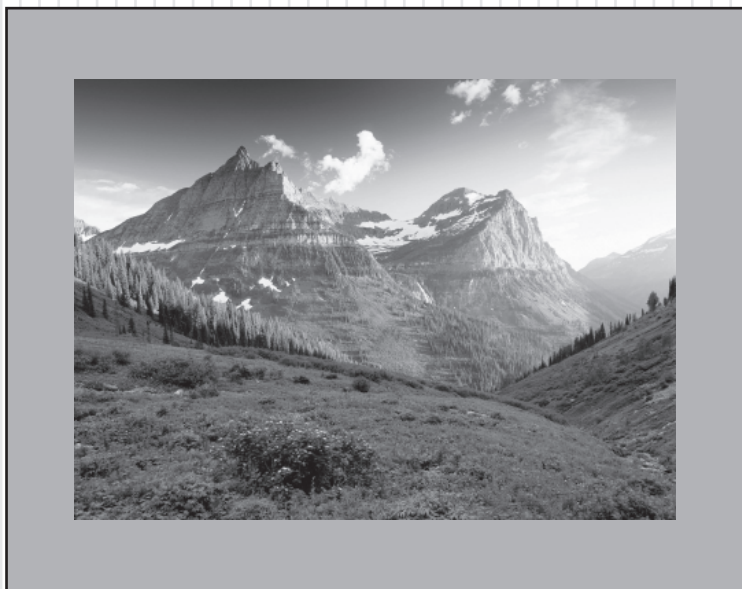


Montana
Comprehensive Assessment
System (MontCAS, Phase 2)
Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT)

COMMON CONSTRUCTED-RESPONSE ITEM RELEASE
READING, GRADE 3

2006



OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Printed in the United States of America.

Reading

Session 1

Read this article to find out how coral reefs are like busy cities. Then answer the questions that follow.

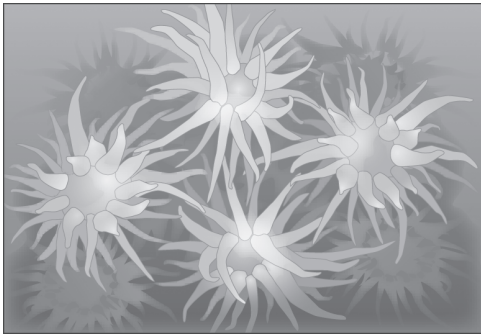
Living Colors of a Coral Reef

by Ruth A. Musgrave

Coral reefs are found near many islands in warm, shallow seas around the world. These colorful, rocky ridges look like dazzling underwater rainbows—but they work like busy cities. There are homes, schools, places to eat, gardens—even tourists!

Coral reefs are made up of—coral. Coral may look like an exotic flower, but it's really a living, breathing animal. The fat petals are tentacles. The center of the “flower” is the coral’s mouth. Tiny stingers in the tentacles protect the coral and catch food.

A



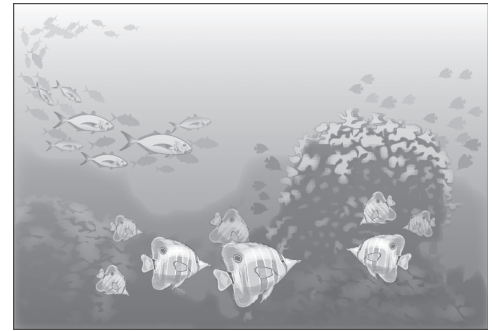
At night, when they are safe from hungry fish, many corals stretch out their colorful tentacles to feed.

Many corals are soft on the inside but have a hard outer covering called an exoskeleton. When these corals die, their exoskeletons are left behind to become part of the reef. A coral reef is built up of many layers of exoskeletons covered by a thin layer of living coral. It takes hundreds of years to build up a coral reef, and some are thousands of miles long!

All great cities have great food. In a coral reef, squid, clams, and other sea creatures eat and are eaten. Big fish eat small fish. At night, corals feed on little fish and tiny plants and animals called plankton.

You can even find little gardens in a coral reef. Damselfish eat a slimy green stuff called algae. They could hunt around for meals, but some damselfish find and protect their own tiny algae gardens.

B



Many coral reef fishes travel in schools, or large groups, for safety. As the group twists and turns through the sea, predators have trouble choosing which fish to chase. The bright colors and patterns help animals hide in the colorful corals.

Every interesting city has tourists, and the reef is no exception. Visitors include sharks, sea turtles, sea snakes, and people. People? It's true. The vivid colors and amazing animals make coral reefs popular places for human sightseers. In fact, you can find more different kinds of plants and animals in a coral reef than almost anywhere else on Earth!

But people need to be considerate visitors. Coral reefs are beautiful—but they are also delicate. It is important to protect coral reefs around the world, to help these underwater cities thrive for years to come.

To learn more about the coral reef, see the IMAX film “Coral Reef Adventure” and visit the Web site www.coralfilm.com.

22. Why do people like to visit coral reefs? Explain your answer by using information from the article.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Student gives a well-developed explanation of why people like to visit coral reefs. Response includes relevant information from the article to help explain the answer.
3	Student gives a general explanation of why people like to visit coral reefs, but answer lacks some supporting information.
2	Student explains in a limited way why people like to visit coral reefs, using little or no support from the article.
1	Response gives a personal opinion with no support or a vague/minimal answer to the question.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Some reasons why people like to visit coral reefs based on information in the article:

- Coral reefs are beautiful to look at; you can see many vivid colors and amazing animals.
- You can see many different kinds of plants and animals.
- There are many different things that can be learned: how corals eat, how coral reefs are formed, how a variety of sea creatures live and survive.
- Corals are colorful and interesting creatures: they look like flowers, use tentacles to feed, leave behind an exoskeleton to form part of the reef.

Score Point 4

Sample 1

People like to visit coral reefs because they are all colorful and live in warm places. It's interesting when they come out at night to eat, so the fish won't eat them. It's cool how they have hard armor to protect them. You can find little gardens in the coral reef. There are schools of fish around the coral reef. There are also sharks, sea snakes, and turtles that people want to see. It's cool to see wild things living where they do. Sea creatures are there to eat and are also eaten by other sea creatures. Coral reefs take hundreds of years to build up and are really long and it neat to see it.

Thorough explanation using specific and relevant details about why people like to visit coral reefs.

People visit coral reefs because they think the coral reefs are dazzling and interesting. When people go underwater to visit coral reefs, they study them so they can know more things about them. People also visit coral reefs because of the vivid colors and its unusual species. Coral reefs make their own garden, which you can see when you visit them underwater. Also coral reefs have colorful tentacles to help them reach their food. People and scientists like to learn about coral reefs so that they can publish information about them in the paper or make a book about them.

Thorough explanation using specific and relevant details about why people like to visit coral reefs.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

Because we think coral reefs are beautiful. And they are homes to fish that are very fascinating. The people think the vivid color and amazing animals are fascinating, and the coral reef is a popular place for us. Tourist come from all over the world to see the amazing reefs. Visitors include sharks, seaturtles and humans.

General explanation using some detail about why people like to visit coral reefs.

Score Point 3

Sample 2

People like to visit coral reefs because coral reefs have beautiful sights and cool schools of fish. They are good to go diving because of the schools of fish, the sea creatures and all kinds of stuff. You can see Damselfish, squid, clam, and you can see creature eating or get eaten.

General explanation using some detail about why people like to visit coral reefs.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

Why people like going to
visit coral reefs is because
it is really pretty and because
they look like flowers
and because they are soft
in the middle and that's
why people like going to visit
coral reefs

Limited explanation, some detail about why people like to visit coral reefs.

Score Point 2

Sample 2

They like to visit the coral because of the vivid colors and amazing animals. You can also find more different animals and different kinds of plants.

Limited explanation, some detail about why people like to visit coral reefs.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

People like to visit coral reefs because of the vivid colors and amazing animals.

Minimal response about coral reefs.

Score Point 1

Sample 2

People like to visit coral reefs because they want to see the amazing animals.

Minimal response about coral reefs.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

coral reefs are found near many island
in warm, shallow, seas around the world.

Irrelevant, does not address the prompt.

Score Point 0

Sample 2

People need to be considerate visitors.

Irrelevant, does not address the prompt.

Reading

Session 3

This story takes place in a native Alaskan village in 1948. Miss Agnes, a new teacher, has arrived in the village. Read what happens and then answer the questions that follow.

The Year of Miss Agnes *by Kirkpatrick Hill*

Students read a selection titled “The Year of Miss Agnes” and then answered questions that followed. Due to copyright restrictions, the passage cannot be released to the public over the Internet. For more information, see the copyright citation below.

Excerpt from *The Year of Miss Agnes* by Kirkpatrick Hill. Published by Aladdin Paperbacks. Copyright © 2000 by Kirkpatrick Hill.

67. Do you think Miss Agnes will be a good teacher? Use details from the story to explain your answer.

Scoring Guide

Score	Description
4	Response thoroughly explains why Miss Agnes will or will not be a good teacher. Response uses specific and relevant information from the story as support.
3	Response generally explains why Miss Agnes will or will not be a good teacher. Response lacks some specificity or relevance.
2	Response partially explains why Miss Agnes will or will not be a good teacher. Response uses weak or limited information from the article and may contain some misunderstandings.
1	Response attempts an explanation based on personal opinion or shows a minimal/vague understanding of the article.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	No response.

Will Miss Agnes be a good teacher?

She will be a good teacher because:

- She takes time to explain things to the girls (where England is, why she talks differently.)
- She treats the girls with respect, or like they are “grown women” and offers them tea.
- She is a hard worker and knows how to get the girls to work hard too.

She will NOT be a good teacher because:

- She treats the girls like they are grown ups instead of her students.
- She is rude—and puts the girls to work without asking their names.

Score Point 4

Sample 1

I think Miss Agnes will be a good teacher because she was smart. She was different. She was nice. She was strong. She acted like she was a nice but strict teacher. She acted like a good English person. She acted like she knew a lot. She explained she was English and they were English. The children thought she was very outgoing. She explained to them very kindly that they both were English but not the same English. The children thought Miss Agnes was very nice because she treated them like grown ups. I think they like her. She is very hard working.

Thorough explanation using specific and relevant support about why Miss Agnes will be a good teacher.

Yes I would, because she could teach them about England and she is strict. She likes to get things done as fast as possible but doesn't tell people to do it for her. She asks for help. She doesn't care what people think about her and now I know that is because most of the women wear skirts instead of pants. I think that the English wore pants back then a long, long time ago. Miss Agnes would be a good teacher also because she has lots of respect for the two girls named Bertha and it didn't say the other name but anyway, I just think that she would have respect for the other students too.

Thorough explanation using specific and relevant support about why Miss Agnes will be a good teacher.

Score Point 3

Sample 1

No, I don't think she will be a good teacher because when the girls went to her cabin she didn't smile or tell them how pretty their village was. When they were at her cabin she made them do work. At school I think she will give them lots of hard work and lots of homework. She'll be mean and won't care much about the kids.

General explanation lacking some specifics and relevance about why Miss Agnes will **not** be a good teacher.

Score Point 3

Sample 2

Yes, because she can teach alot about
citys and countries on the map. She can
teach about England. She can talk about
how she is different than probbily
the others. Because she is nice and
not mean.

General explanation lacking some specifics about why Miss Agnes will be a good teacher.

Score Point 2

Sample 1

Yes, I thing she would be a good teacher.
because she will help them to learn about different
countrys. And she may teach the children how
to read and write better. She would help the
children with maps, too.

Partial explanation, limited support for points mentioned regarding why Miss Agnes will be a good teacher.

Score Point 2

Sample 2

Yes I think she would be a
good teacher because she explain
it so they could understand.
She isn't shy to ask somthin
she would bravely ever yell
she is nice to.

Partial explanation, limited support for points mentioned regarding why Miss Agnes will be a good teacher.

Score Point 1

Sample 1

She will be a good teacher because
she is a hard worker.

Minimal explanation about Miss Agnes.

Score Point 1

Sample 2

Yes Miss Agnes doesn't let
people goof-off. & she makes
people earn rewards

Minimal explanation about Miss Agnes.

Score Point 0

Sample 1

Yes, because he is a teacher.

No support from text to back up yes response.

Score Point 0

Sample 2

all the time.

Irrelevant.

Acknowledgments

Measured Progress and Montana’s Office of Public Instruction wish to acknowledge and credit the following authors and publishers for use of their work in the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System—2006.

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